

Dear Sirs:

RE: WT Docket 05-235

Elimination of Morse Code Requirement

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OCT 12 2005

FCC - MAILROOM

Elimination of the Morse Code requirement will not solve the problems of Amateur Radio membership. The problem is the mental attitude of the people coming into ham radio. Two factors are present. People today are computer orientated. They only see radios connected to the Internet and digital modes. The second is that they are looking for something for nothing without working for it.

Ham radio today is like other organizations. Whether they are fraternal, social, religious or otherwise, all have seen a sharp decline in membership and are struggling to stay afloat. Most are graying with few young people joining. Organizations in general have few active members in their ranks and most are card carriers.

Today, people in general live in apartments and condos where there are antenna restrictions. What good does it do for a ham to have HF privileges when they can't use them? As a result, radio manufacturers have made a big push to promote VHF and UHF communications along with digital programs to link computers to the Internet.

As a VE, the majority of the people that take the Technician test are never seen again to do an upgrade. The challenge to get the license is gone and they turn their attention to other things. In my community there are over three thousand hams listed in the FCC database. Yet the repeaters are strangely quiet and few are heard on the HF bands. The sum total of all the clubs in the community show a membership of maybe ten percent of the FCC database. Less than ten percent of the membership are active. Even public service has been largely replaced by cell phones. Even fewer are involved in Emergency Communications.

Testing has been "dumbed down" to the point where the applicants retain little information regarding radios. They just retain enough to pass the exams. One need only look back to the mess when CB was opened and the resulting chaos that followed. Do we really want this to happen in Ham Radio?

I propose that we retain the code and allow Technicians to have designated segments of the HF bands similar to the old Novice bands using voice privileges without code. Need to reserve sections of the bands for the Generals who upgrade with 5 wpm code. For those who wish to gain full privileges should show a 10 wpm code proficiency to upgrade to the Extra class license. We don't need a lot of CB types cluttering up the HF bands which is happening now on the repeaters.

LETS KEEP THE CODE !!!

Sincerely;

Roger R. Schneider WB7D1W

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